MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 FEBRUARY 1981

Iran Domestic Affairs

New Council Member--Tehran radio reported that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has appointed Shaykh Abolqasem Khaz'ali to the Council of Guardians. The new member of the six-man council replaces Shaykh Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, who is "unable" to attend council meetings due to "other important business."

Rafsanjani on Disturbances--Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Tehran radio interviewer that he deplores the disturbances during recent speeches by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr at Esfahan and Mashhad. He also stated that he has emphasized everywhere that there should be no disorders, particularly in view of Khomeyni's warning in this regard, and attributed these disorders to "enemies."

Iran Foreign Affairs

Pakistani-Iranian Relations--Following Pakistani foreign minister Agha Shahi's meetings with Iran's president and prime minister, Tehran radio reported that Agha Shahi held talks with Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani. Shahi told Rafsanjani that during the recent Islamic summit "sufficient notice" was taken of the Iran-Iraq war and it was made clear that Iran is "not isolated" and can express its viewpoints through "various forums." The leaders of the Islamic countries, he added, are interested in visiting Iran and finding a solution to end the war.

UAE-Iranian Relations--According to the UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ, an "official" spokesman said the Ministry of Information and Culture has no knowledge of any official PARS correspondent in the country since no one has submitted a request to the ministry to be an accredited PARS correspondent, as is required by law. However, the spokesman revealed that the person whom PARS earlier described as their new correspondent in the UAE has been expelled for activity "harmful" to UAE-Iranian relations.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

French Plane Deal--A Foreign Ministry spokesman has confirmed that Iraq has received the first consignment of Mirage F-1 airplanes. INA reported that the spokesman described the fulfillment of the contract signed in 1977 as a "good example" and said Iraq views France "differently" from the "big powers" who are prone to "renege" on commitments. Reacting to the delivery of Mirages to Iraq, an unattributed Tehran radio commentary described the French action as a breach of neutrality and an "indication of imperialist aid" and called France an "American satellite" more interested in its own "imperialist interests" than anything else. The commentary said that the new planes will make no difference in the Gulf war and that "they will suffer the same fate as the Russian MiG's."

Good Offices Mission--Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has cabled Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti, INA reported, confirming that Iraq is willing to receive members of the Islamic good offices mission that is seeking to mediate in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Naval Unit 'Retraining'--The Majlis heard a representative of the Defense Ministry describe the "retraining" of the Takavaran naval commando unit as a "kind of transfer," not a "purge." According to Tehran radio, the representative said that while some members of the unit fought well in the defense of Khuninshahr, others did not and also committed unspecified "military offenses," prompting the unit's "retraining." When the retrained commandos reach the "desired standard," the representative went on, they will be reassigned to duty.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported continued artillery exchanges along all fronts while Iranian patrols operated against Iraqi positions west of the Karkheh Kur River and Iranian Air Force planes hit an Iraqi armored concentration near Ahvaz. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported "massive" Iranian losses around Dezful, Susangerd, Ahvaz and Abadan.

Kurdish Situation

Iranian artillery smashed a 9-hour attack by "illegal armed groups" near Miandow Ab in West Azarbayjan, Tehran radio reported, while Islamic revolution guards clashed with "counterrevolutionaries" around Marivan and Sanandaj. President Bani-Sadr warned the insurgents in Kordestan that the continued fighting is weakening Iran's efforts against Iraq, adding that "history will not forgive you." According to AFP, Bani-Sadr told the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI that had Iranian forces not been spread so thin to check Kurdish opposition, Iraq "would have thought twice about attacking us." The president reiterated Ayatollah Khomeyni's offer of amnesty and urged the insurgents to lay down their arms.

Saudi Arabia

In a speech reported by the London-based Arabic newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said that world oil demand will decrease in 1982 and Saudi Arabia will cut back its production to 8.5 million barrels per day, thus avoiding any "unnecessary increase in production," even if the Iran-Iraq war continues. If a world oil surplus appears by 1982, Yamani said, prices may fall. Yamani also said that if the Soviet Union becomes an oil importer, its satellite countries will need to seek oil from OPEC states, developing a commercial relationship with them.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

Damascus radio described a 2 February speech by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran to the National Consultative Council as part of a Jordanian campaign of "lies and hatred" against Syria. The radio replayed earlier Syrian charges that Jordan is "plotting against the Palestinian question."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COMMITTEE SEEKING END TO WAR TO MEET IN RIYADH

JN310820 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 81 p 20

[Ahmad Shakir dispatch]

[Text] At-Ta'if--The AD-DUSTUR correspondent has learned that the Islamic good offices committee formed by the third Islamic summit will meet in Riyadh next week to draw up its action plan for bringing closer the viewpoints of Iraq and Iran so as to achieve reconciliation between them and thus end the fighting between these brothers.

Before leaving for Iraq and Iran, the committee will meet with Saudi Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The good offices committee comprises the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Senegal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Guinea and the PLO.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES GDR, ALGERIAN AMBASSADORS

JN040809 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday met with the Algerian and GDR ambassadors in Beirut. The GDR ambassador conveyed a message to Abu 'Ammar including an invitation by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to the PLO to attend the party's meetings which will convene in February.

During the meeting, attended by Abu Ja'far, the director of the PLO Political Department, the GDR ambassador and Abu 'Ammar the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon were discussed.

During his meeting with the Algerian ambassador, Abu 'Ammar discussed affairs in the region in light of the Israeli military escalation in south Lebanon and Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Abu 'Ammar asked the ambassador to convey a message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the PLO's expectations, on the basis of information on Israeli military movements in Lebanon. The two sides also discussed the Islamic summit resolutions concerning the Palestine cause.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE MEETING

JN031725 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presided over a meeting of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint command in southern Lebanon this afternoon.

The conferees discussed the military situation in all its aspects and military arrangements were taken in light of the Zionist military escalation in southern Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar had visited the family of martyr Col Abu Hanafi and offered his condolences to the family.

Speaking to a Lebanese-Palestinian group which received him at the martyr's house, the brother leader said: We lost a great hero in the person of martyr Abu Hanafi, who gave his life for Palestine. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also visited the family of martyr Mustafa Ibrahim as-Sa'di and the family of Brother Ziad al-'Atrash where he offered his condolences on the death of his sister. He also visited the wounded heroes in the Al-Hilal hospital in Sidon and the hospital of (Adnan Hammud).

QADDUMI HAS SECOND MEETING WITH FRANCOIS-PONCET

JN031743 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1615 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with Jean Andre Francois-Poncet in Paris this morning.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Abu Hatim, official in charge of the foreign relations in the Fatah movement; and Ibrahim as-Sus, PLO representative in Paris.

This is the second meeting in less than 24 hours between Brother Abu al-Lutf and the French minister within the framework of consultations between the French Foreign Ministry and PLO.

Brother Abu al-Lutf had met with Francois-Poncet yesterday afternoon. During the two-hour meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the recurrent Zionist aggressions against southern Lebanon. The two sides also discussed the results of the Islamic Conference summit, the resolutions adopted on Jerusalem and Palestine and the unanimous stand in support of the PLO and its national objectives. The two sides also discussed efforts by the European community to establish peace in the Middle East and the need to promote these efforts in the near future.

The Palestinian delegation referred to the hostile statements issued by the new U.S. administration on the Palestinian cause. These statements will not serve peace and will obstruct the sincere international efforts for seeking a just settlement of the Middle East crisis.

AL-WAZIR MEETS WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL IN BELGRADE

JN031810 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has met in Belgrade with Comrade Risto Dzunov, member of the Presidium of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia.

They discussed the current situation in the Arab region, particularly the Palestinian issue, the Zionist attacks and massing of troops against southern Lebanon and relations between the PLO and Yugoslavia.

Comrade Dzunov reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle under their sole legitimate representative--the PLO--to regain their legitimate rights on their homeland.

FINLAND READY TO OPEN PLO INFORMATION OFFICE

JN031818 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] The PLO has affirmed its desire to establish diplomatic relations with Finland.

This emerged during a meeting yesterday between Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, and Finnish Foreign Ministry officials.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that his country is ready to open an information office for the PLO in Helsinki.

BAHRAIN

OAPEC SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN MANAMA

JN311942 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Jan 81

[Text] Manama, 31 Jan (GNA)--OAPEC Secretary General 'Ali 'Atiqah arrived in Manama today on a 3-day visit to Bahrain.

'Atiqah will attend in Manama the meetings of OAPEC's ministerial committee which will discuss the economic feasibility of the dry dock to be established in Algeria.

Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, will arrive in Manama next Monday for the same meetings.

KUWAIT

AMIR WELCOMES PDRY'S AT-TA'IF INITIATIVE ON GULF

LD012030 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait said in Aden this evening that His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, had welcomed the invitation presented by the PDRY at the third Islamic conference to hold an urgent summit conference for the leaders of the Arab Peninsula, the Arab Gulf and the Horn of Africa to discuss the issue of clearing the area of military bases and naval fleets so that the entire region becomes a region of security and peace. This was said in a statement made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir to our radio reporter after the talks held by the Yemeni and Kuwaiti sides this evening in the presidium building.

In reply to a question from the radio reporter, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister spoke about Kuwait's and Yemen's mutual agreement not to approve any foreign presence in the region, saying that the inhabitants of the region were the ones to be concerned with their own security and filling any vacuum in the area.

It is worth noting that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressed an invitation to hold an urgent summit conference to the states of the region in the Democratic Yemen's speech before last week's third Islamic Conference summit which ended its session at At-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia.

GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

LD031024 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] El-Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon arrived in Kuwait for a 3-day visit.

His highness the amir was at the fore of those who received him at the airport. The prime minister also attended the reception.

The Gabonese president is accompanied by a delegation comprised of a number of ministers and advisers as well as an information delegation.

QATAR

SOUTH KOREAN MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT 3 FEB

JN031949 Doha QNA in Arabic 1935 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (QNA)--Pak Pong-hwan, South Korean minister of energy and resources and envoy of President Chon Tu-hwan and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Doha this evening on a 3-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of countries of the area.

In a statement on arrival the South Korean minister said that he will deliver a message to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan.

UAE

PAPER CRITICIZES REAGAN'S STATEMENTS ON PLO

JN040756 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Feb (ENA)--An editorial in AL-ITTIHAD newspaper attacks U.S. President Reagan's statements on recognition of the legitimacy of Zionist settlements and his description of the PLO as terrorist. The paper calls for a new stand which will return our relations with the United States to normal.

The paper wonders if the U.S. President is openly adopting antagonism to the Arabs and is awaiting an Arab response to match his levity, to which even Jimmy Carter did not aspire despite the fact that he gave Israel more than it got from any previous U.S. President.

The paper adds: In light of this frank and shameful stand, it is no longer conceivable to speak of U.S. friendship, because this contradicts our simplest commitments toward our rights, land, present and future.

The paper affirms: If we want to liberate the occupied Arab lands, we must have a different policy toward the United States; if we want the right to self-determination for the people of Palestine, we must take a different stand toward the United States; and if we want a just and durable peace in our region, we must have a different strategy against the United States.

The paper says that talk of a U.S. friend is an unacceptable relinquishment and neglect of rights.

PDRY

ADEN CITES DETAILS OF NEW CIVIL DEFENSE LAW

LD032054 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today promulgated the civil defense law. Article one stipulated that the law is named the Civil Defense Law of the PDRY. Article 2 defined the elements of civil defense.

The law stipulates that the defense minister shall be the supreme head of civil defense in all parts of the republic. His duties are defined in Article 3. In Article 4 the law states that the Ministries of the Interior, Health, Communications, Installations and Education shall be made ready with the objective of preparing and implementing civil defense operations. They will all be linked to the supreme head of civil defense.

The law empowers the defense minister to use any other facilities he considers necessary for civil defense objectives. The law also gives the defense minister the right to form special committees drawn from representatives of various government organs and institutions to devise plans and tasks for civil defense work in accordance with the minister's directives.

In Article 5 the law prohibits all citizens and employees in facilities and institutions of essential public interest and those engaged in food processing, the pharmaceutical industry, foodstuffs and the drugs trade and also transport workers from leaving the areas where they are working when there is a general mobilization without written permission from the civil defense authorities. The defense minister has also been empowered to stop the emigration of any other group whose work is essential to social stability. The law stipulates the creation of a department to be called the general department for civil defense. Its heads will be appointed on the basis of directives from the defense minister. Civil defense departments will also be set up in the governorates.

Article 7 lays down the duties of the director of the general department of civil defense, and Article eight provides for measures the director may take after consultation with the defense minister.

Article 9 provides that those selected for civil defense work or those required to perform certain civil defense duties shall receive their salaries or wages and allowances from the ministry, or the department or the institution where they are working, unless otherwise stated.

Article 10 defines the persons responsible for the implementation of civil defense work. They are the ministers, the governors, the administrative commissioners, directors of state organs and institutions each operating within the jurisdiction of his own department. The law stipulates that the civil defense departments in the governorates shall be drawn from formations of the general department of civil defense but will be linked administratively to the governorates.

Article 13 of the law permits the governorates, ministries, and special institutions to present their proposals to the Ministry of Finance, on the basis of the defense minister's directives, for the purpose of allocating funds in their budgets for the implementation of work and projects connected with civil defense. Periodic reports must be submitted to the defense minister on stages of implementation of work and projects connected with civil defense.

The law stipulates that instruction in civil defense duties shall be given in schools, institutes and colleges on the basis of what is agreed upon by the defense minister and the minister of education. The law gives the defense minister the right to grant rewards, with the prime minister's assent, to those who work in civil defense in cases where they provide great service in the way of extinguishing large fires and dealing with explosions and other disasters.

Article 17 stipulates that anyone who violates the provisions of this law or the decisions, orders, statements or instructions issued on its basis, will be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or be fined a sum not exceeding 150 dinars.

Article 18 empowers the defense minister to issue instructions and decisions to implement or regulate the provisions of this law. The remaining articles order the cancellation of any previous text that contradicts the provisions of this law. The law is operative from the date of its issue and will be published in the official gazette.

REAGAN, AS-SADAT EXCHANGE CABLES OF SUPPORT

NC031330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)--U.S. President Ronald Reagan has affirmed the United States' strong and continuous commitment toward Egypt's prosperity. He said that his government supports the efforts being exerted by Egypt for further development for the Egyptian people and for the consolidation of peace in the Middle East. This was contained in a cable which President Anwar as-Sadat received from U.S. President Reagn on the occasion of the international economic conference, which was recently held in Aswan.

President as-Sadat replied with a cable in which he expressed apprecation for the strong and continuous U.S. Government commitment to support the Egyptian economy and asked for the continuation of the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace negotiations.

Following is the text of President as-Sadat's cable to President Reagan:

I have received with gratitude your kind cable on the occasion of the meeting of the many states and organizations working in cooperation with your government for the development of the Egyptian economy. It is a sign of hope that the date of this important conference fell on the day of your assumption of constitutional authority as President of the United States of America, which maintains profound ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation with our country for their common interest.

The Egyptian people join me in expressing our appreciation for your strong and continuous commitment to support the Egyptian economy to achieve a better life for our people, who guard the northern gate of Africa.

As we appreciate the U.S. position on the peace process in our area, we are confidently looking forward to the continuation of the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace negotiations to bring about peace in this vital area of the world. Undoubtedly the participation of your country's delegation in this conference will have important positive results.

It pleases me to send Your Excellency our sincere thanks for your noble sentiments towards me and towards the Egyptian people, who convey their love, appreciation and respect.

With my best wishes and regards to you, I wish your friendly people further progress and esteem.

'ALI COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS DELIVERIES TO EGYPT

NC031620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the U.S. arms due in Cairo this month will be delivered in implementation of the agreement under the loan signed in 1979, to the value of $1.5 billion, and the loan signed in 1980, to the value of $2 billion. A time table was drawn up for supplying Egypt with these arms, he said. 'Ali said that the arms consignment, to arrive this month, will include large quantities of tanks and armored vehicles.

CONSULTATIONS ON CHAD SITUATION INTENSIFY

LD031027 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jan 81 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report: "The Chad Situation Is Worsening; Egyptian-Sudanese Consultations With France; Fears of Border Clashes"]

[Excerpts] Cairo--Official information reached Cairo yesterday about the worsening situation in Chad, particularly in the border areas, at a time when Chad President Goukouni Oueddei has arrived in Libya for talks with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

An official source has told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the situation in Chad will be top of the list of the subjects which President Anwar as-Sadat will discuss with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during his visit to France on 11 February.

Meanwhile, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that contacts between Egypt and Sudan on the situation in Chad have intensified recently. The strengthening of the joint defense agreement and coordination between the two countries were discussed in order to confront the operations to which Sudanese-Chadian border areas might be subjected under the pretext of hunting down the Chadian armed groups which oppose the Libyan military presence in Chad.

GHALI DISCUSSES ROLE OF NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

NC041125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0948 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has declared that despite the attempts of the rejectionist states and some Marxist states to suspend Egypt's membership in the nonaligned movement, Egypt is continuing to exercise its basic role in maintaining the purity of the movement and the correctness of its course, as established in the Cairo conference which was held in 1961 to prepare for the Belgrade summit held in the same year.

In an interview with AKHIR SA'AH magazine today, Dr Butrus Ghali said that India, Yugoslavia and Egypt, as the founder members of the nonaligned movement, are exercising their natural role in safeguarding the movement against both the polarization attempts being exerted by the two superpowers and the attempts of some states to divert the movement from its original principles and lofty aims and subject it to the hegemony of one of the two superpowers.

He affirmed that the Libyan aggression against Chad and the Cuban penetration into Africa will be among the most important African subjects to be raised at the nonaligned foreign ministers conference, which will be held in New Delhi.

Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out that the issue of Afghanistan constitutes the real challenge facing the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in New Delhi, since Afghanistan was one of the first countries which joined the movement. He said that in tackling the Afghan issue the conference will show the extent of its ability to confront the challenge represented in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and to take a positive decision on this issue.

Regarding the movement's role in settling the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, Dr Butrus Ghali said that the movement's role is to mediate and reconcile and not to take decisions.

'ALI VIEWS PROGRESS OF EGYPT-ISRAEL COMMITTEE

NC031616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received a report from the Egyptian side to the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee on the results of the committee's recent meeting that was held in Cairo last week.

'Ali said that the Joint Military Committee is carrying out its duties toward the implementation of the military aspect of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and that the work of the two sides in this committee, which examines the point of view of both sides in the interpretation of any disagreement regarding the implementation of the contents of the treaty, is satisfactory. This work also proves the insistence of both sides to fully implement the military aspect of the treaty.

Concerning Israel's continual building of new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 'Ali said: Together with our full rejection of the settlement policy which Israel is pursuing, we also deplore the Israeli Government's policy of building new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to create a new fait accompli and to place new obstacles in the way of negotiations with any new Israeli Government.

GHALI VIEWS EUROPEAN INITIATIVE, SETTLEMENT ISSUES

NC031304 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt supports the European initiative to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. He said that Egypt believed that Europe must augment the efforts of Egypt and the United States to help the Palestinian people.

Ghali said that according to the Camp David agreements there is no objection to PLO participation in the negotiations at the right time. Therefore, contacts must start between the PLO and Israel so as to achieve mutual recognition because--if this is achieved--another stage of negotiations will be reached that will give a new momentum to the peace process.

In a statement to a Cairo radio correspondent Dr Ghali said that Egypt condemns Israel's actions against citizens in the occupied land and its aggressions against southern Lebanon. Egypt believes that these actions are obstacles in the way of peace and contrary to the Camp David agreements and international resolutions. We are acting to overcome these obstacles through continued negotiations, as we overcame the obstacles Israel placed before and after the signing of the peace treaty, Dr Ghali said.

Concluding his statement Ghali said that Egypt is currently making intensive diplomatic moves basically aimed at emphasizing Egypt's contribution to international issues. Despite its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and to help its fraternal African countries, Egypt did not stop contributing to finding peaceful solutions to international differences.

AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL COMMENTS ON NORMALIZATION

LD031611 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Jan 81 p 6

[Sharif Riyad report: "Egyptian Ambassador in Israel: Israeli Measures Hampering Peace Cause Drop in Egyptian Tourism to Israel"]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada said that the steps taken so far to normalize relations between Egypt and Israel have been very good and that, contrary to what the Israelis are claiming, the normalization is not progressing slowly.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR on normalization, the ambassador said that Israel's measures of hampering peace, such as the building of settlements and considering Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel, are the causes of the drop in Egyptian tourism to Israel, because such measures have a major psychological impact on the Egyptian people and make them refrain from visiting Israel.

So far, he added, four agreements have been concluded between the two countries in the fields of commerce, culture, agriculture and transport and communications. A direct air route between Cairo and Tel Aviv has been established and telephone, postal and telegraph services have also been made available. The overland route via Al-'Arish has been open since 15 December.

The ambassador said that visa applications to visit Egypt have been simplified and some 20,000 visas have been issued so far.

The ambassador said that after the cultural agreement is ratified there will be an exchange of teachers and students. An Egyptian journalists' delegation is also expected to visit Israel.

PAPER SAYS 'NORMALIZATION' DEPENDS ON PALESTINIANS

LD040913 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Feb 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Unilateral Normalization"]

[Text] Frankly speaking, we cannot comprehend Israel's present insistence on "normalizing relations" with Egypt. We cannot understanding this insistence because Israel appears to abhor any real normal relationship and refuses to provide proof of its good will and neighborliness.

Delegations meet to study the question of autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs. The two sides agree that the solution of this issue is necessary for lasting peace and that if this issue remains pending it will be tantamount to a time bomb threatening to undermine peace. Yet the Israeli Government does not hesitate to seize the opportunity, while the talks are going on, to announce the establishment of a number of new settlements on the Palestinians' land, and to issue decisions expropriating their homes and farms with the utmost indifference.

President as-Sadat, meanwhile, announces that there is no going back on the peace process he initiated and that Egypt is truly committed to praises Israel for honoring its pledges in the peace agreement honestly and faithfully. Israel, however, makes no appropriate response to all this other than to announce the call made by one of its deputies demanding that Israeli withdrawal from Sinai be halted and that the remainder of the Egyptian territory still under occupation be kept, even though his country has an embassy in the capital of the country whose land he wants occupied.

Despite all this, on every occasion that Egyptians and Israelis meet, the Israelis ask with the innocence of children in their eyes: Why do you not like to deal with us? Why do you not respond to our embassy's invitations? Why do your writers not exchange visits with our writers, and your artists with our artists, and your workers with our workers? Still with the innocence of children they ask: Did not your president take his initiative in order to remove the psychological barrier between us? Why do you still have this barrier? They even go further and ask why we do not cooperate in agriculture, industry, culture and art, why their tourists come to our country while our tourists do not go to their country, and why they translate our literary works while we do not translate the works of their men of letters and thinkers?

Not only that, they are even extremely surprised by the Egyptian workers' refusal to deal with their trade union federation, the Histadrut, and regard this a flagrant breach of the peace agreement and a blatant contravention of the "working class unity" principle which they advocate.

Around the end of last year, an Egyptian workers delegation was in Cyprus to participate in the Mediterranean labor conference. The Israeli delegation had nothing else to do but to ask the Egyptian delegation: Why do we not circumvent the disputes among the governments and come to an understanding among ourselves as workers?

The Egyptian delegation's spokesman at the time was Muhammad Rizq, official in charge of the Cultural Committee of the Printing and Publication Workers General Federation. As usual, he was frank and direct in his response. He simply said: The question is not that we are workers and you are workers.

The question is: How do you treat our brother Palestinian workers? The way to solidarity with your workers is primarily through solidarity between you and the workers of Palestine. With these few simple words, Muhammad Rizq summed up the position of all the Egyptian people--workers, merchants, employees and intelligentsia.

All of us are prepared to establish "normal" relations with the people of Israel provided that they establish normal relations with our brothers in Palestine. No matter how much the Egyptian Government and the Israeli Government adhere to the agreements to normalize the relations between them and however much they abide by the official programs in the various fields of activity, genuine normalization between the two peoples is impossible unless each party stops provoking the feelings of the other. No Egyptian cat agrees to deal with an Israeli cat which regards the Arabs of Palestine as mere rats, born only to be devoured by them.

That was what Muhammad Rizq, an ordinary Egyptian work, said at the international labor conference attended by Israeli representatives. The same is said by every worker, writer, engineer, doctor, employee, politician and leader in Egypt.

Normalization, gentlemen, is a rope with two ends. If one party lets go at one end, the rope falls to the ground and is tread upon. There is no hope for genuine normalization of relations unless the Israeli side is prepared to do and capable of doing whatever it asks us to do. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

AL-AHRAM ANSWERS SOVIET CHARGE ON ISLAMIC LEAGUE

NC040835 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Feb 81

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM comments on yesterday's article in the Soviet newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA that dealt with the Arab and Islamic Peoples League. AL-AHRAM says that the Soviet newspaper has accused Egypt of trying to set up an alliance opposed to the Arabs, Islam and communism through this league. Thus, in one naive sentence, which can deceive neither the Arabs nor the Muslims, the Soviet newspaper has linked the Arabs and Islam with communism as if the three can meet under one roof or the first two have anything in common with the third.

The Arabs and Muslims know that they are one thing and that communism in its various forms and shapes is something else. The Arabs know that their fiercest battle in defense of their nationalism has been and still is against communism in its various colors and attires. The Arabs know that this battle, which was begun by Moscow, erupted at the end of the fifties when the Arabs were about to complete their national liberation and forge toward their national unity, which communism fought with mad ferocity for no reason other than the fact that it was a national unity that would rule out any possibility of Arab dependence or a communist solution.

AL-AHRAM says: Drawing on known history and the sad situation of our age, the Arabs and Muslims know how Islam suffered and still suffers when communism approaches it. They know with what slogans and with what weapons entire Islamic communities, together with their culture and religion, are being exterminated in Soviet Asia. They know how for over 1 year Moscow has been exterminating the Muslim society in Afghanistan. As for Egypt, it intends to pursue its correct course in supporting its Arab and Islamic nation, because this is Egypt's destiny.

'AZIZ ON WAR WITH IRAN, RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, U.S.

LD031017 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Feb 81 pp 1, 2

[Interview granted by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Yunis Muhammad Ishaq in Jidda--date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you think that President Saddam Husayn's speech to the recent Islamic summit has led to understanding of Iraq's view of its war with Iran?

[Answer] In our estimates the Iraqi president's speech was greeted by an excellent response from the great majority, if not all of the conferees. A large number of heads of delegations contacted the president and expressed their appreciation for the objective spirit which characterized the speech. Some of them expressed their views on the speech to the conference. As you have seen, the speech was a historical review of the relations between Iraq and Iran and the neighboring countries.

[Question] What do you expect from the good offices committee that was set up recently and do you expect it to achieve any success in its coming task?

[Answer] The conference decided to send a good offices committee, which means expanding the previous committee set up in accordance with an initiative from President Ziaul Haq and [Islamic Conference General Secretary] Habib Chatti which Iraq consented to receive and cooperate with. But Iran refused to receive this committee and did not reply to the proposal in the first place. For our part we have accepted the new proposal to form a good offices committee consisting of the Islamic Conference general secretary, Pakistan, the PLO, Bangladesh, Turkey, Guinea, Gambia and Senegal to implement the conference resolution which calls on Iraq and Iran to cease firing and to seek to solve the problem between the two countries peacefully. We again welcome this committee.

[Question] It was rumored in Tehran that the recent Islamic summit was directed against Iran.

[Answer] I did not hear or read about such reports but I would not be surprised if such news were to come from Tehran. The Iranian side levels false accusations against the Arab and Islamic countries and continuously distorts facts. It is justifying its self-isolation and its rejection of being part of the Islamic community which met at this conference. Iran wants to justify its refusal to cooperate with the Islamic Conference Organization in order to reach a just and honorable solution for the conflict.

Leveling such accusations is unjust; it is a continuation of the wrong and deviationist attitude which the Iranian authorities have adopted toward its relations with the Arabs and the Muslim countries. The fact that there was coordination between the Arab brothers on the subjects dealt with at the conference is natural and necessary. It is not shameful that Iraq should coordinate with Saudi Arabia, for example, or with any other country in order to reach resolutions that would serve the sublime objectives for which the conference was convened. There was no coordination against any particular member state. In the first place, 1/3 of those who came to the conference were hoping that it would reach a just and honorable solution for the [Iraq-Iran] conflict which is in the interest of the Iranian peoples.

[Question] What about your relations with Syria now and do you believe that the Arab fraternal good offices committee has achieved better results after its visit to Baghdad, Amman and Damascus?

[Answer] When we were visited by the fraternal good offices committee which included Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia and Chedli Klibi, President Saddam Husayn explained Iraq's stand as follows: "The Arab countries must agree on the principles of relations between them and when such agreement is reached it must be determined which country or regime is applying these principles or not."

[Question] What are these principles?

[Answer] These principles are: 1) nonrecourse to force in dealings between the Arab countries; 2) genuine Arab solidarity; and 3) solving outstanding Arab disputes through dialogue.

We believe that if sincere and earnest agreement is reached then such problems can be solved. But as long as certain Arab countries continue to oppose and behave contrary to such principles, detente is impractical and impossible. As you know, we cannot ignore such facts. The Syrian regime is allied with Iran against us and is supplying Iran with military aid in order to kill the sons of our country and our army. This is an antinational attitude and we certainly cannot ignore it. It is also contrary to the spirit of Arab brotherhood and Arab solidarity. There is no justification for it whatsoever.

[Question] Is it true that initiatives are being taken in order to hold a meeting between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad?

[Answer] This is not true.

[Question] Does Iraq have any formula for an understanding with Iran or an alternative for solving the disputes between the two countries, particularly since the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations have made no progress in bringing the views of the two countries closer?

[Answer] So far we prefer to remain optimistic about the UN efforts, the efforts by the nonaligned movement and the recent blessed efforts by the Islamic Conference. We do not wish to say that these efforts have failed because we believe they are needed and we will give them every opportunity to succeed. But if Iran fails to respond to these efforts it will be the one responsible and it will have to face the consequences of the destructive war for Iran and its peoples.

We believe that sooner or later the Iranian peoples will realize that their leadership is acting contrary to their interests, contrary to the will of the Muslims, the Arabs and also the world community and contrary to international law and custom. Such a leadership cannot continue to shoulder responsibility, because in order for anyone to be responsible he must look after and be responsible for the affairs of his people.

[Question] Is it true that the calculations on which Iraq based its decision on war with Iran have produced the opposite results on the battlefield?

[Answer] President Saddam Husayn made it clear in his speech to the conference that Iraq did not take the decision to go to war and that we were compelled to enter this war in order to defend our sovereignty, independence and dignity. We confronted an enemy and we won in this confrontation. It is not necessary that the winner should be the one who begins the aggression. Thank God we have won because we were right.

[Question] Is it true that you are in the process of restoring your relations with the United States and are there any specific Iraqi conditions for such relations?

[Answer] We say: no conditions. But we also say that the cause for severing relations between us and the United States is the U. S. bias on the side of the Zionist entity. Relations between Iraq and the United States have been severed since 1967 and to date we do not find that the U.S. attitude has changed sufficiently to make us consider resuming relations with the United States. When we find that the United States has changed its attitude in a positive manner generally acceptable to the Arab nation and to us, we would not be against the idea of having relations with all countries. That is except the Zionist entity, which we will not recognize because it is an illegitimate entity. Normal relations could be established between us and the United States when it behaves normally and is unbiased toward our Arab problems, particularly our number one problem--Palestine.

[Question] Finally, what does Iraq expect from the new U.S. administration with regard to the policy it should follow in the Middle East?

[Answer] He cannot speculate on the policy of a foreign country that is distant from us, but we hope that the new administration will make efforts to understand Arab situations and issues in a fair, just and equitable manner and will not look at Arab issues from a Zionist viewpoint. If it looks at these issues from an independent and objective viewpoint it will certainly reach results that are different from the ones existing now.

VIENNA RADIO INTERVIEWS FINANCE MINISTER

AU022046 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0610 GMT 2 Feb 81

[Herbert Hutar interview with Iraqi Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi in Vienna; no date given--recorded, answers in Arabic with German translation superimposed]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minister, the Iraqi-Iranian war has been going on for several months now. Iraq has already asked Iran to make peace. Why, in our opinion, is the conflict with this second biggest oil country in the Middle East still continuing?

[Answer] Probably it would be better to put the question to the Iranian side, but I will answer it. I believe that the responsibility lies with the Iranian side, either because of its ignorance or because it does not have a power center [words indistinct] (?that would have the authority) to sign a cease-fire. We, for our part, have welcomed the initiative, the mediation initiative, irrespective of which side, international side, began it. We, for our part, proclaimed a unilateral cease-fire as desired by some friendly countries, but the Iranian side did not respond; it continued its bombing of civilian targets in Iraq further.

[Question] Iraq has captured the Iranian oil minister. Does Baghdad pursue any specific political aims with his capture?

[Answer] No, we have no political aims. The Iranian oil minister was captured in combat. He was wearing a combat suit and carried a machinegun. We did not snatch him from his office. He is being treated as a prisoner like any other prisoner.

[Question] After the conclusion of the U.S. hostage affair, Iran will get many billions of dollars. Does Baghdad, Iraq, fear that a new Iranian military offensive might be launched?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] Iran started this war. When we were compelled to go to war with Iran, we knew that Iran had a great deal of military equipment left over from the shah era. In terms of equipment and numbers, they were greatly superior to us. We knew that, but we entered into this war with the aim of winning it, because we know that the difference is elsewhere: Namely, our army is fully behind its leadership, it knows what it is fighting for [passage indistinct] and we are certain of our victory. Iran has already launched its much-propagated counteroffensive. Over a period of 4 months it gathered anything it could get--including aid from certain countries--but the result was a crushing defeat. Iran did not succeed in occupying a single centimeter. On the contrary, our army has occupied new territories. And Iran has used its entire army, even bringing its tanks from the borders with the other countries. But now it knows, and everyone knows, that it will not achieve anything with its so-called counteroffensive.

[Question] A great many oil installations in both countries have been destroyed by the war. What at the moment is the Iraqi oil production capacity and how much does it export at the moment?

[Answer] The damages were not so great (?as is assumed in Europe) but we have stopped our exports because of the situation in the Gulf. But now we can (?ship part of) our oil production by another route--namely, via Turkey and Syria to the Mediterranean.

[Question] How much of the total production can be shipped through those pipelines?

[Answer] The capacity (?of the pipelines) is more or let us say about 1/3 of the entire capacity.

[Question] Will Iraq continue to advocate a relatively moderate price policy, or will it urge another oil price increase in Geneva in May?

[Answer] Iraq [words indistinct], as you know, has been against exorbitant price increases, sudden price increases, and Iraq is also opposed to taking advantage of international or local crises for oil prices. That is why we believe this war will not affect the price, that is, Iraq's attitude toward the (?oil price).

CUBAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS

JN0315O5 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)--Hector Rodriguez Llompart, Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, arrived here today heading the Cuban delegation to the meetings of the Iraqi-Cuban Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. During its meetings, which will begin tomorrow, the commission will discuss ways of developing cooperation between the two friendly countries in the above fields.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH JAPANESE ENVOY

JN041158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and Japanese Ambassador in Baghdad (Hideo Kakami) have discussed ways to reactivate the operations of Japanese companies in Iraq. At a meeting held in the National Assembly building today, the Iraqi official and the Japanese ambassador discussed the expansion of economic and technical relations between the two countries in light of the discussions which Taha Yasin Ramadan held with Japanese officials in Tokyo at the end of January. The Japanese ambassador reiterated his country's affirmation of the importance of developing relations with Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister had ended his official visit to Japan on 25 January.

CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT SUPPORTS IRAQ AGAINST IRAN

JN041150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)--Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, received a letter today addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Cape Verdian President Aristides Maria Pereira. The letter, which includes the support of the Cape Verdian Government and people for Iraq's just battle against the racist Persian regime, was conveyed by Osvaldo Lopes da Silva, Cape Verdian minister of economic coordination. The two ministers reviewed economic, trade and technical relations between the two countries and ways to promote them.

Da Silva arrived here yesterday leading an official delegation on a visit of several days.

MISSION ON IRAQ-IRAN CONFLICT TO BE RECEIVED

JN031 28 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)--Iraq officially announced Tuesday its agreement to receive the members of the good-offices mission, stemmed from the 3rd Islamic summit conference that ended its works in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, last week. The Iraqi decision was informed in a cable addressed by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi to Mr Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization last Thursday, INA learned. The good-offices mission on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict comprises representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Senegal, Guinea, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Islamic Conference Organization.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 236

JN031721 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)--Our armed forces inflicted losses on the Persian enemy in all the operations sectors last night and today. They killed 117 and destroyed 9 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers and 14 vehicles.

Communique No 236 issued by the Armed Forces General Command added that our forces clashed with the Persian enemy in the Dezful, Khafajiyah [Susangerd], Ahvaz and Abadan regions, inflicting massive losses in lives and equipment. Following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 236 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in their operations sectors last night and today, scoring the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our forces opened artillery and mortar fire on it and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 11 dead.
B. Our units engaged enemy troop concentrations and armor opposite our positions in the Sayf Sa'd region, killing 12 and destroying 6 tanks, 2 vehicles and 1 observation post.
C. One enemy was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran region.
D. One of our forces raided an enemy concentration in the Dezful region and clashed with it with all its weapons, killing 52 and seizing a quantity of ammunition before returning safely to base. Our units also opened artillery and mortar fire on the enemy troops and positions in the same region, killing 21 and destroying 2 tanks, 1 vehicle, 1 observation post and 1 rocket launcher.
E. Eight were killed and one tank; one armored personnel carrier; none vehicles, one carrying troops; and one excavator were destroyed in the Khafajiyah region.
F. Seven were killed and two armored personnel carriers and one rocket launcher were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
G. Five were killed and two vehicles were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, the total of known enemy losses amount to 117 dead; 9 tanks; 3 armored personnel carriers; 14 vehicles, 1 carrying troops; 1 excavator; 3 observation posts; 2 rocket launchers; and a quantity of various ammunition.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 18 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two personnel carriers, four vehicles, four mortars and two rocket launchers were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 February 1981

UK'S IAN GILMOUR MEETS OFFICIALS, DEPARTS

Crown Prince Reception

JN031542 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 3 Feb (PETRA)--His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office today Ian Gilmour, British deputy foreign minister, and his delegation.

The two sides exchanged views on the means to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East issue. They also discussed the role of the European Community in achieving an honorable solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

His highness emphasized to the visitor that the entire region's security is threatened by the intransigence of successive Israeli Governments, the continuation of the Israeli settlement of the occupied Arab territories, the annexation of Arab Jerusalem and the exclusion of the PLO from participation in determining the future of the occupied Arab territories.

His highness pointed out that the intransigent Israeli policy threatens the security and interests of the Western world in the Middle East region. He added that the Camp David approach has failed and has been rejected by the Arab nation. It has resulted only in a unilateral peace agreement between Egypt and Israel that disregards the heart of the issue: the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Al-Qasim Meeting

JN031535 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 3 Feb (PETRA)--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received British Deputy Foreign Minister Ian Gilmour this morning. The two sides reviewed the Middle East situation and the European and Arab stands on the current international moves for establishing a lasting peace that will bring stability to the area and contribute to the attainment of international peace and security.

Al-Qasim briefed the British official on Jordan's concept of a comprehensive peace, namely the need for a complete Israeli withdrawl from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including the return of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty and acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination under the PLO.

Al-Qasim conveyed the Jordanian Government's thanks for Europe's understanding and stressed the importance of the European Community's move toward the right course for seeking a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian and Middle East causes. The Jordanian minister told his British guest that what has been proposed recently by some parties in the form of options is a scheme to foment intrigues and deception because, in the opinion of the Jordanian Government, these options do not constitute viable solutions. There are only inalienable rights for the Palestinian people which must be completely regained, and their acknowledgement is the only means to achieve peace and detente in the area and thus influence international peace and security. The absence of such a course will divert the area from an honorable solution based on justice and rights and will constitute a serious threat to stability in the area and to international peace and security.

Al-Qasim stressed that the Jordanian Government believes that the new Israeli proposal, put forth by the Labor Party, on the Jordanian option explicitly confirms that the occupation forces have no intention of withdrawing and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination under the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative. What Israel seeks is to continue deceiving international public opinion; a practical explanation of this Israeli proposal is that Israel will continue to maintain a policy of legalizing its occupation of the Arab territories.

It is to be recalled that the Arabs have shown special interest in the new European trends, particularly the European Community's conviction that an Israeli withdrawal and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination have become the cornerstone of any serious moves to settle the crisis.

Information Minister Visit

JN031518 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 3 Feb (PETRA)--Ian Gilmour, British deputy foreign minister, visited Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah this morning. During the meeting, which took place at the information minister's office, the dimensions of the Palestinian issue at its current stage and the problems facing the third party were reviewed. [sentence as received]

The meeting also stressed the importance of developing the European move--which has given promising signs with its balanced starting points--in order to bring about a comprehensive international move that would open roads and prepare a sound foundation for the aspired lasting solution in accordance with the principles of a just peace approved by the United Nations.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman and several companions of the visiting official.

4 Feb Departure

JN041038 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 4 Feb (JNA)--Ian Gilmour, British deputy foreign minister, with the delegation accompanying him, left Amman this morning following a 4-day visit to Jordan, during which they met with King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Ian Gilmour discussed with the Jordanian officials bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the Middle East issue and means to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

ALGERIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT

Arrival Statement

JN031303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Excerpt] An Algerian parliamentary delegation headed by (Sa'id 'Abbado), deputy speaker of the National People's Assembly, arrived in Amman this morning via Ar-Ramtha on a 3-day visit to Jordan during which it will meet with senior officials and parliamentarians in Jordan.

Upon arrival, the head of the delegation told JNA that his visit is part of the preparations for the second Arab parliamentary union conference scheduled to meet in Algeria in March. He said that he will exchange viewpoints with Jordanian officials so that the parliamentary union can play a role in achieving Arab solidarity, rallying efforts to confront challenges and participating in implementing Arab summit resolutions. He said that we give priority to consolidating fraternal relations between Arab parliamentarians and conducting dialogues with parliamentarians in the world to explain Arab viewpoints and thus serve the main Arab cause.

King Husayn Reception

JN031918 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening the Algerian National People's Assembly delegation led by Deputy Speaker (Sa'id 'Abbado).

His Majesty King Husayn praised the close fraternal Jordanian-Algerian relations based on sound foundations and genuine values. His majesty stressed that Algeria enjoys a special position because its sons have struggled for liberation and the Algerian revolution had been an Arab and Islamic revolution which rose above differences and continued to polarize everyone around it. The Algerian revolution is an example of a people's determination to achieve their objectives and constitutes an example of dedication to liberation.

His majesty stressed the importance of the link the Arab nation has with its noble heritage, the sacrifices it has offered and its aspirations for the future.

His majesty then reviewed the march of joint Arab action since the first Arab summit until the Amman summit conference, which was held for the sake of the Palestinian cause. His majesty elaborated on the historical background of the Arab-Israeli dispute, stressing that Jordan's objective is to work for the return of the Arab occupied territories in Palestine, particularly Arab Jerusalem, to its inhabitants and owners.

His majesty noted that Palestinian rights are not confined to the West Bank and Gaza but go beyond that to encompass a more comprehensive objective.

His majesty revealed the danger behind what some Arabs are propagating concerning Israeli claims on the so-called Jordanian option. His majesty stressed that there is no other alternative but that of our commitment to the Palestinian people's full rights, our faith in this nation, and our commitment to its pan-Arab principles and objectives.

KING HUSAYN REPORTEDLY TO VISIT U.S. IN MARCH

JN031515 Doha QNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Amman, 3 Feb (QNA)--The QNA correspondent in the Jordanian capital has learned from informed sources that His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan will make an official visit to the United States during March. The Jordanian king will meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and several top officials in the U.S. Government and Congress.

LEBANON SUBMITS NOTE TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

NC031735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Lebanon has submitted a note to the UN Security Council regarding the raid carried out by Israeli planes and the recurring shelling of the southern areas.

The message which the Israeli delegate has submitted to UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim indicates that Israel is working to contain the effects of Lebanon's note.

LEBANESE-SYRIAN SUMMIT SET FOR LATE FEBRUARY

NC031337 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit will be held in the second half of the current month following a meeting between Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam which will decide the exact date of the bilateral summit and the topics for its agenda. This was said by Minister Butrus, who returned to Beirut from Damascus at noon today following a 2-day visit.

He said that the reasons for delaying the date of the summit were that in the first half of February Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will go to Romania on an official visit and Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam will visit New Delhi to attend the non-aligned foreign ministers conference.

At 1230 President Sarkis held a meeting which was attended by Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, who briefed President Sarkis on the talks he had in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and a number of senior Syrian officials.

BRIEFS

HALT OF TV TRANSMISSION--Information Minister Michel Iddih has welcomed the statement of the independent Nasirite movement--Al-Murabitun--in which it announced that Arab Lebanon television has finally stopped transmission. Minister Iddih said that this positive step indicates understanding of the importance of supporting legitimacy. [Beirut Domestic Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 81 NC]

IRAQ PLEDGES NOT TO USE MIRAGES AGAINST ISRAEL

JN040827 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0755 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Damascus, 4 Feb (SANA)--Saddam Husayn has given guarantees to the French Government not to use the Mirage F-1 planes delivered by France to Iraq against Israel. This was announced in Paris yesterday by a French spokesman who was answering questions by reporters on the planes which France has decided to deliver to Saddam Husayn's regime, despite the current war between this regime and the Iranian revolution.

In a dispatch by its correspondent in Paris, TISHRIN newspaper reports today that the French spokesman had stressed that the Iraqi Government made official guarantees to France that the French fighter planes will not be used against Israel and that the French Government had informed U.S. President Ronald Reagan that it has received such Iraqi guarantees.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN031347 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] In a statement prior to his departure from Damascus airport, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus praised the results of his talks with the officials in Syria, saying: The officials in the fraternal state, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad, showed understanding of and responded to the points raised by President Sarkis in his message to President Hafiz al-Asad. I can say that there are no differences in viewpoints. However, the issue is in itself not simple considering the situation prevailing in the region and the international situation, which is associated with the Middle East region. He added: During my meeting with the president last night, we discussed the points dealt with in President Sarkis' message. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad entrusted me with conveying a reply message to President Sarkis.

Butrus stated that the president's message deals with several issues, some pertaining to the situation in Lebanon, some to bilateral relations and others to the situation in the region in general and the results of the conference in At-Ta'if. The message also deals with the issue of the approaching meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis. Butrus pointed out, however, that the date of the meeting has not been specified as yet since President Hafiz al-Asad will be visiting Romania during the coming few days and since 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will be away, attending the conference of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned states in India. He announced that he will meet with Khaddam as soon as Khaddam returns from the conference in order to make the final arrangements for the summit meeting that will subsequently take place between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis.

In reply to a question on whether or not Yasir 'Arafat will join the summit between Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis, Butrus replied that it is too early at present to reply to such a question. He added: Perhaps this issue will be discussed during the coming meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

In reply to a question on his assessment of the results of Butrus' visit to Damascus, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, said: Brother Butrus has talked on his and my behalf.

Fu'ad Butrus left Damascus this morning at the end of a 2-day visit during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Muhammad Khudar, director of the Arab Homeland Department in the Foreign Ministry; and the chief of protocol in the ministry.

ALGERIA

CSSR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 3 FEB FOR TALKS

LD032102 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek arrived in Algiers this afternoon on an official visit to Algeria. The visit is at the invitation of brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, the foreign minister, who was at the Houari Boumediene International airport with a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Algiers to welcome him.

In a press statement, Chnoupek explained that his visit to Algeria is within the framework of the traditional relations between the two countries. He noted that among the positive elements in economic relations between the two sides is the expanding of bilateral cooperation in this field.

The Algerian-Czechoslovak political talks, headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries in the presence of members of the two delegations, began this evening at the Foreign Ministry. Brother Ben Yahia and Mr Chnoupek earlier had private talks.

BERAHI RECEIVES USSR SCIENCE DELEGATION 29 JAN

LD031653 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 30-31 Jan 81 p 3

[APS report: "Algeria-USSR: Soviet Academy of Sciences Vice President Received by Berahi"]

[Text] Algiers--Abdelhak Berahi, FLN Central Committee member and minister of education and scientific research, received a Soviet Academy of Sciences delegation Thursday [29 January]. We note that this delegation arrived in Algiers Wednesday. It is led by Aleksandr Sidorenko, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

During this first meeting both sides emphasized the importance of the visit, which is taking place as part of the two countries' efforts to strengthen their cooperation in the sphere of scientific research. In addition, this delegation, which is to stay in Algeria several days, will have talks with various Algerian scientific research organizations.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS, DEPARTS

Bilateral Talks

LD031442 Algiers APS in English 1250 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 3 Feb (APS)--Political talks between Algeria and the Netherlands resumed Tuesday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Algiers). The Algerian and the Dutch delegations were respectively led by Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, C.C. member and foreign minister, and Mr Christoph van der Klaauw, foreign minister of the Netherlands.

The two delegations examined international issues such as North-South dialogue and the Western Sahara question as well as bilateral relations. They held a first round of talks yesterday.

The Dutch delegation, led by Mr van der Klaauw, has been in Algeria since Sunday on an official visit.

3 Feb Departure

LD032022 Algiers APS in English 1604 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 3 Feb (APS)--Mr Christopher van der Klaauw, Netherlands Foreign Minister left Algeirs, Tuesday afternoon, at the end of a four day official visit to Algeria at the invitation of Mr Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, CC member, minister of foreign affairs.

Let's recall that Mr van der Klaauw had been audienced, on Monday, by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Mr van der Klaauw was seen off at departure from "Houari Boumediene" International Airport by Mr Ben Yahia.

FLN-POLISARIO TALKS OPEN IN ALGIERS 3 FEB

LD031426 Algiers APS in English 1215 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 3 Feb (APS)--Talks between F.L.N. and the Polisario Front started here today, under the chairmanship of Mr Slimane Offman, CC member, chairman of the party's External Relations Commission, and Mr Bashir Mustapha as-Sayyid, deputy secretary general of Polisario. Talks centered on the relations between the two fronts and the two peoples, and the examination of the situation prevailing in the region and the world.

Several senior officials of the two sides attended these talks. The Saharan delegation arrived here earlier today from the liberated territories of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (S.D.A.R.).

LIBYA

MEMORANDUM ON CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE LODGED

LD031328 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah yesterday lodged at the International Court of Justice at The Hague a memorandum which included its reply to the first Tunisian memorandum lodged at the same court on 30 May 1980 concerning the continental shelf between the two countries. The Jamahiriyah and Tunisia agreed at the beginning of June 1977 to submit the question of the continental shelf to the International Court of Justice for its judgment on this subject.

PAPER VIEWS PENDING 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' ATTACK

LD031349 London AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in English 30 Jan 81 p 2

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The world hysteria over the decision of two independent countries of Africa to merge took a sinister twist recently as the major imperialist nation and its Middle-Eastern surrogates, Egypt and Sudan, began rattling their sabres and threatening the Libyan masses.

The American cowboy President has stated that his top priority is to 'end Libya's role as a sponsor of terrorism and subversion on a global scale'. With the memory of Vietnam firmly emblazoned on his mind, Reagan is not expected to take the vanguard role in confronting Libya and it is to her satellites that she must turn in order to carry out her threats.

The main American lackey, the traitorous Egyptian ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, has expressed his eagerness to embrace this role by promising to use the so-called 'Libyan National League' led by the equally despicable Mustafa ad-Durki to foment a full-scale uprising in Libya. As-Sadat is expected to use the pretext of defending Sudan and so-called assassination plots against him to mount an invasion.

Speaking on French television, As-Sadat said that the recent merger threatens the Sudan and what threatens the Sudan threatens Egypt. He also promised reporters that they have not heard his last word yet on the merger. With 100,000 troops stationed near the Libyan border As-Sadat is lulled into a false security that he can stem the revolutionary tide against traitors for the Arab nation and surrogates of imperialism. Even with American military support this cannot be done.

Another serious threat has been launched against the Libyan masses by the murderous regime of Saddam Husayn. The renowned butcher of Baghdad has begun to channel support to a motley bunch of enemies of the Libyan revolution in an effort to destabilise the country. Iraq's directorate of general intelligence, Mudiraiyat al-Muhabarat al-A'ama, has recruited some 200 such traitors and arranged for them to be transported to Iraq for special training in guerrilla warfare and clandestine operations.

The whole programme is under the personal direction of Barazan Ibrahim at-Takriti, the operational chief of the Iraqi Muhabarat. The camp is based in central Iraq and some of the mercenaries have already been deployed in the war with Iran.

Suddenly Libya's territory becomes fair game for all the counter-revolutionary forces in the area. No doubt the right-wing Reagan administration has given these forces the courage and temerity to enact their expansionist dreams at the expense of the real struggle against Zionism and imperialism. But because Libya has unswervingly committed itself to the just struggles of the oppressed masses, it is expected that the cornered wolves will lash out at their hunters. But the hunted will only become the hunter if political will and determination are allowed to give way to fear and compromise.

Iraq will use its agents to foment unrest in the civil administration of Libya as well as spread despondency among the masses. But the revolutionary gains made during the past 11 years cannot be blown away by a few dissidents, regardless of the power of their paymasters. Libya is strong and its policies are based on the fundamental principles of revolutionary Islam and there is no substitution for that.

But no revolution is totally secure as counter-revolutionary forces are forever on the lookout for the half-chances to create an opening to undermine progress. Any and everybody can become an important ally in this instance. Libya expects and will continue to do so, the incessant plottings of its enemies but not for once will that deter us in our aims or cower [as published] us into compromises.

TUNISIA

MINISTER'S UZBEKISTAN VISIT, AGREEMENT REPORTED

LD032358 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, minister of higher education and scientific research, during his official visit to the USSR, devoted the last 3 days to touring the Republic of Uzbekistan. He was welcomed at Tashkent airport by the Uzbek ministers of higher education and foreign affairs. The Tunisian delegation led by the minister then attended a working session during which agreement was reached to expand cooperation between the two countries in all fields especially in higher education and scientific research. The Uzbek first deputy premier, who attended the session, stressed the sentiments of respect and appreciation held by the Uzbek people for President Habib Bourguiba and the Tunisian people.

Abdelaziz Ben Dhia later visited the historic Samarkand and Bukhara and their Islamic sights. He also visited a number of higher education and scientific research institutes and held several working sessions. Before leaving for Leningrad, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia held a meeting at the Ministry of Higher Education in Uzbekstan where agreement was reached to exchange teachers, research workers and students.

GOVERNMENT CIRCLES GLAD U.S. AMBASSADOR STAYING

TA040934 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 81 p 1

[By political correspondent Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] Government circles in Jerusalem have expressed satisfaction with the report that the Reagan administration has decided to have Ambassador Sam Lewis stay on in his post. The appraisal in Jerusalem was that a switch of ambassadors at this stage would have delayed any possibility of the resumption of the political negotiations during the term of the present [Israeli] government. A relationship of understanding exists between Lewis and Begin.

Ambassador Lewis was interested in remaining at his post. It is not yet clear whether his term will also extend beyond the elections in Israel, since Lewis has been closely connected with the Begin government, even recommending to the Carter administration that it support his government.

OFFICIALS SAY TALKS ON SINAI PULLOUT PREMATURE

TA040930 Jerusalem POST in English 4 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem said last night that they were unaware of plans for early negotiations with Egypt on next year's final withdrawal from Sinai. The officials said that the Egyptians had sought to begin the talks now, but that Israel viewed negotiations over a final withdrawal, scheduled for April 1982, to be premature. They said that military talks between the two countries have been confined to security arrangements in the area of Sinai, from which Israel has already withdrawn.

The officials were reacting to a statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali that talks on a final Israeli withdrawal have made a good start. Commenting on a report from the Egyptian team participating in the joint military committee's latest session, 'Ali said that there had been differences of opinion between the two countries. He did not elaborate, but stressed the "commitment of both sides to implement the treaty in full, as far as its military aspect is concerned."

Yesterday, Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Eliahu Ben-Elisar, met with Vice-President Husni Mubarak. No details were released, but they are believed to have discussed the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. Ben-Elisar was reported to have originally requested the meeting with Mubarak to protest against the bureaucratic difficulties encountered by Israelis who wanted to participate in the current international book fair in Cairo.

LABOR CONTINUES MASSIVE LEAD IN JANUARY POLL

TA031315 Jerusalem POST in English 3 Feb 81 p 2

[By political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Labor continues to maintain its massive lead in the Jerusalem POST's January poll, and if elections were held today the Alignment would return 58 seats, compared to 32 in the 1977 general elections.

The Likud, on the other hand, would decline to 20 (43 in 1977), while the National Religious Party and Tehiya seem to be recovering support, both from the Likud and from undecided voters. The latter group shrank from 45.4 percent of the electorate in the last POST poll to 36.7 percent this time.

The data emerged in a poll conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre among a representative sample of 1,273 adults, during the last week in January.

Party	January MK's	Percent	November MK's	Percent
Likud	20	16.9	22	18.2
Alignment	58	48.6	58	48.4
NRP	11	9.4	9	7.7
Aguda bloc	5	4.6	7	5.8
Democrats	-	0.1	-	0.1
Shinuy	2	1.7	1	0.6
Tehiya	4	2.9	1	1.1
Others	20	15.8	22	18.1

Although support for Labor derives from all socio-economic strata, age groups and communities, there is a difference between the median voter for the two main parties--with the Likud enjoying strong support among the religious. The median Likud voters' profile: primary school education, oriental, lower income and more religious; that of Labor: higher education and income, Western and secular.

Education: 15.6 percent of Likud supporters have been to university, compared to 26.2 percent of Labor backers.

Communal origin: 6.3 percent of Likud supporters were of Afro-Asian origin, and 53.7 percent of Labor backers were of Western origin.

Occupation: 42.5 percent of Likud supporters engaged in white-collar trades, compared to 52.4 percent of Labor supporters.

Religious affiliation: 29.4 percent of Likud backers were secular compared to 57.1 percent for Labor.

Income: 51.3 percent of Likud supporters belong to lower income groups, with 37.4 percent of Labor's vote belonging to that stratum.

Party fidelity: Only 28.6 percent of those who voted Likud in 1977 would choose the party today, while 23.2 percent say they would vote Labor and 29.8 percent are still undecided.

A massive 75.4 percent of Labor voters in 1977 would do the same today, with only 2.1 percent ready to back the Likud and 17.4 percent undecided.

The pro-Labor shift in the floating vote emerged from the trend among those who voted for the defunct DMC in 1977; 84.8 percent say they will vote Labor, 1.9 percent Likud had 20.9 percent remain undecided, as compared to over 50 percent who could not make up their minds three months ago. [sentence as published]

POLL SHOWS LIKUD SUPPORT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

TA031311 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Feb 81 p 17

[By Hanokh Smith]

[Excerpt] While the support of the government coalition parties in general and of the Likud in particular has been continually declining over the last year, it appears that the percentage of people who think that Menahem Begin is doing a good job remained steady.

In the latest public opinion poll conducted by the Smith Research Center between 11 and 22 January, the percentage of people who thought that Begin was a good prime minister declined by 2 percent to 39 percent. This does not markedly differ from the results of the public opinion poll conducted in February and March 1980, as can be observed from the following table. [figures rendered in percentages]

Time of poll	Those who think that Begin is a good prime minister	Those who vote for coalition	Those who vote for Likud
May 1979	59	40	26
September 1979	53	35	23
February-March 1980	40	31	23
August-September 1980	41	30	18
October-November 1980	41	28	16
January 1981	39	24	14

Since the poll conducted in February-March 1980, a period in which the decline in the support for the colition parties was 7 percent and the decline in the Likud supporters alone reached 6 percent, no further significant decline in the prime miniser's popularity was noted. The most severe criticism of the government was observed in the economic and the social spheres. In the security field, in spite of considerable fluctuation, the government credibility remained firm. In the area of foreign policy, after a significant loss of credibility, especially following Moshe Dayan's resignation, a certain recovery of confidence was observed. The prime minister focuses his attention mainly on these subjects, and this may partly account for the relatively steady support for Mr Begin, against the background of the general deterioration in the popularity of the Likud itself and of the other coalition parties.

In the absence of Dayan, Weizman and Hurvitz, there are no other Likud ministers in the government who enjoy the public's wide support. Now more than ever Begin is considered the best asset of the Likud, for he seems to be able to restore to the Likud many of its former supporters who appear to have abandoned it. Generally, the decline in the support for the Likud and the government coalition has not affected many active ministers. Among the leading ministers, it was only former Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz who thought he was doing a good job as finance minister. His support dropped to 32 percent in the October-November 1980 poll. In the January 1981 poll Hurvitz received "a farewell gift" of 34 percent support. Of all the finance ministers, it was only the late Pinhas Sapir who won such a degree of pupularity.

Since Hurvitz' resignation the public has lost, at least temporarily, considerable confidence in the government's ability to succeed in the economic sphere. The percentage of those who think that the government has been successful or largely successful on economic issues has declined to some 9 percent of the respondents, an unprecedently low rate. Replying to a question on whether, in their opinion, upon Hurvitz' resignation the government will be able to succeed or partly succeed in curbing inflation, only 17 percent replied in the affirmative. In the February-March 1980 poll, 50 percent of the respondents thought that Hurvitz would be able to curb inflation, at least partially. The percentage of those who replied in the affirmative to this question declined to 32 percent in the October-November 1980 poll.

It should be emphasized that the poll was conducted when the government actually did not have a finance minister. The present minister, Yoram Aridor, only took office near the end of the poll period. His performance has not been measured, and we will have to wait for future polls to measure his rate of support. This data, however, indicates the negative effect of Hurvitz' resignation on the public, and this accounts for the creation of the 2/3 majority that forces the government resignation.

Generally, the other ministers maintained a steady level of support. Of the respondents, 32 percent replied that Yitzhaq Shamir was performing well as foreign minister, and 41 percent expressed a similar opinion about Housing and Construction Minister David Levi. The rate of support for these two ministers rose less than 1 percent, compared to the previous poll. Therefore the rate of support for these ministers may be regarded as steady.

There has been a certain decline in the popularity of Ari'el Sharon. In the January 1981 poll, 33 percent of the respondents replied that he was performing well as agriculture minister. There has been a decline of 4 percent in the support for Sharon as compared to the October-November 1980 poll, but this rate was still higher than the rate of support he enjoyed less than a year ago, when it received only 26 percent.

One minister whose popularity in the January 1981 poll increased as compared to previous polls was Education and Culture Minister Zvulun Hammer. The percentage of respondents who said that he was performing well was 61 percent. In the August-September 1980 poll Hammer won 57 percent support. Apparently the strengthening of his position stems from the way in which he handled the teachers' crisis.

POLL PREDICTS 21 SEATS FOR DAYAN-WEIZMAN LIST

TA020943 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv--A new center party led by Moshe Dayan and Ezer Weizman would bring in 21 seats, according to the Dahaf poll conducted by Dr Mina Tzeman for KSAFIM (MONEY) magazine. A list led by Dayan alone would net 17 seats and by Weizman 15 seats.

Dr Tzemah also reported that should Dayan head the RAFI list of Yiga'el Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval, he would win only 11 seats, while RAFI minus Dayan would return only two seats.

A Dayan-Weizman list would take 10 seats from the Likud and seven from other parties. Such a ticket would leave Labor with 48 seats and the Likud with 20, according to the Dahaf poll, while the NRP would get 11 seats, the Aguda bloc six and Tehiya three.

However, if neither Weizman nor Dayan run, labor would get 58 seats and the Likud 24. The latter would do only marginally better if Yitzhaq Shamir were to replace Menahem Begin as its No. 1 (from 24 seats to 25), according to the Dahaf poll.

Over half the respondents want the next government to enjoy a clear Knesset majority (56.3 percent in favour to 28.4 percent against and 15.3 percent uncertain).

Shim'on Peres' re-election as Labor leader has propelled him to the top of the list for premier with 26.3 percent, Menahem Begin with 17.8 percent, Yitzhaq Rabin 13.3 Moshe Dayan 4.7 percent, Weizman 4 percent, others 7.7 percent and undecided 26.2 percent.

MA'ARIV CALLS REAGAN MIDEAST POLICY 'ENCOURAGING'

TA041203 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Feb 81 p 5

[Editorial: "The Administration Forms Its Positions"]

[Text] The new U.S. administration is taking its first tentative steps in shaping its Middle East policy, and the emerging result, in the light of the various statements made by its leaders who have only just taken up their new posts, is fairly encouraging.

It is now clear that what Reagan and his colleages said during the election campaign concerning the importance that they attach to Israel where U.S. strategic calculations are concerned and the respect they harbor for the IDF's fighting ability, were not just made for propaganda purposes but are in fact part of their ongoing viewpont. It is also clear that they have assumed their predecessors' moral commitment to Israel's existence and to the buttressing of its security. Unlike the Democratic administration that preceded them, they are prepared to view the physical presence of U.S. troops in the Middle East as a necessity caused by the times we live in. So far, however, they have no idea as to how this will be effected and where the American troops will be stationed.

President Reagan this week spoke of the need for the presence of American forces in the region without going into detail. His secretary of defense said that if Israel were to request such a presence on its soil, the request would be considered sympathetically.

In fact, he left the matter up to Israel, and the question of whether we should in fact request an American military presence in Israel or not still has to be studied very thoroughly.

The only sphere in which the new administration has apparently not yet begun to form an opinion is that of relations--or the lack of relations--with the PLO. In this sphere the new administration's spokesmen are still emiting diverse and contradictory statements. On the face of it, the declaration of war on international terrorism would appear to necessitate all-out war on the PLO. But Europe's endeavors on behalf of the terrorists' roof organization place the administration in a tricky situation: the crystallization of a consistent anti-PLO policy will deepen the rift between the United States and its European allies, and this, presumably, is at the bottom of U.S. doubts and hesitation.

In any event. it should be noted that even when President Reagan expressed his displeasure over the settlements, he did so in very cautious terms, with great restraint and hesitation. This, too, is an indication of his warm feeling for Israel.

PAPER LAUDS REAGAN, HAIG HANDING OF SOVIETS

TA040926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Feb 81

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Excerpt] YEDI'OT AHARONOT states that the strong language used by President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig is the appropriate manner of handling the West's affairs with Moscow. The firm statements made by the two made the Soviet Union soften its position and offer conciliatory suggestions to the United States.

President Carter, who debased himself before the Russians, met with insults and humiliation. This is a lesson that Europe should learn as well, YEDI'OT AHARONOT urges.

SOMALIA

ARRESTS FOLLOW MOGADISHU TERRORIST ATTACKS

WA042326 Paris LE MONDE in French 25-26 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Nairobi--Urban territorism has emerged in Somalia. Six bombs have exploded in Mogadishu during the last 10 days. One exploded in a movie house, wounding two women, another in front of the government-owned Juba Hotel, a third near a gas station. This series of explosions has not been officially mentioned so far. The Mogadishu press has remained completely silent on the subject. However, authorities have made numerous arrests in the capital. Most of those arrested, among whom is a former minister, are reportedly sympathizers of the Soviet Union.

No one has claimed responsibility for the Mogadishu bombing incidents. However, there is little doubt that they were perpetrated by an armed opposition movement which has been in the news for over a year, the Somali Salvation Front (SSF). With Ethiopian support, the front operates out of the Ogaden desert, which is mainly inhabited by ethnic Somalis.

The opposition of the front to the regime in power is both of a political and tribal nature. Following the debacle of the Somali army in the Ogaden, a group of officers, some of whom were pro-Soviet and had opposed this war, attempted to overthrow President Siad Barre. Their plot failed and 17 of them were executed. Others fled to Ethiopia where they founded the front. The officers who were executed were ethnic Majertains, a group to which about one-fifth of the population belongs. This tribe was in control of the government apparatus before the October 1969 revolution which brought President Barre to power. The latter is a member of the rival Darod tribe, and these two clans have been rivals since independence.

The front claims a membership of 10,000. This figure is certainly excessive. Its infiltrations seem to coincide with bombings by the Ethiopian air force. The front claims that it is "a truly nationalist organization" and gives assurances that it has no obligations toward the Addis Ababa regime. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that it is partially manipulated by Ethiopia. In the eyes of the Somali population, this constitutes its most burdensome handicap.

WSLF SECRETARY GENERAL INTERVIEWED BY CAIRO PAPER

LD040955 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Feb 81 pp 23-25

[Interview given to 'Adil Hammudah by Western Somalia Liberation Front Secretary General 'Abdallah Hasan in Mogadishu--date not given]

[Excerpt] Mogadishu--Question: What is the situation at present?

Answer: We are in control of the countryside while the Ethiopians are in control of the towns. The main roads are under our control. The Ethiopians use helicopters to transport their soldiers and equipment lest they be ambushed by our men. The weapons we have were captured from the Ethiopians and they are nothing more than Kalashnikovs, which are our principal weapons, and a good number of anti-tank RPG launchers. We are short of ammunition, however.

With these simple weapons we are confronting an arsenal of Eastern weapons worth $3 billion used by 400,000 Ethiopian fighters, half of whom are said to be regular soldiers and the other half people's militiamen. This is in addition to 17,000 Cubans, about 30,000 Soviet experts and a number of Adeni officers and pilots. There are also MiG 23's and MiG 21's and modern helicopters and missile bases around the principal towns like Harar, Diredawa, Jijiga, Gabredarre and so forth.

Question: There is another factor which has changed the military balance in the area, namely the Somali army's withdrawal from western Somalia following the signing by the Somali Government of the defense and facilities agreement with the American Government, according to which the United States pays $40 million to Somalia and preserves its security in return for naval bases and facilities in Mogadishu and Berbera. Does not this agreement affect your mlitary strength and activities?

Answer: Because of this agreement, lengthy discussions were held with the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic which emphasized to us that the Americans will not interfere in the front's affairs. Meanwhile, the Somali Government has not reduced the volume of its aid to us despite the fact that it is in dire need of aid itself since it is sheltering about 2 million western Somali refugees on its territory, sharing its medical supplies, arms and food with us and paying wages to the front's full-time strugglers who previously held positions in the government. Sometimes it also gives us some money. Western Somalia is part of motherland Somalia. A mother never stops helping its children.

Question: Have no contacts taken place between the front and American officials?

Answer: A dialogue has been going with the Americans for 1-1/2 years. This is a secret which I am divulging for the first time. I have met with some members of the American Senate and American diplomats. We told them: We regard you as an evil omen because we know your attitude toward liberation causes. We are even more apprehensive now that you have come closer to Somalia and signed the agreement on facilities. They said: We have not asked the Somali republic to stop aiding you. All that we have asked it to do is to withdraw its military units from western Somalia and not to supply you with the weapons which we will be giving to it. If the front wants to fight for self-determination, it has every right to do so.

We told them: You are against freedom everywhere, against peoples' liberation, but when people are liberated you try to establish friendship with them. Western Somalia must be liberated and all that we ask of you is to help us not with arms and funds but by recognizing our right to self-determination.

Finally they said that if we wanted we could obtain an entry visa to the United States to present our cause there at all levels.

Question: Do you expect the Americans to help the front?

Answer: If they help the Somali Republic, they will be helping the front indirectly, though we would rather ask the help of our Arab brothers.

Question: A few minutes ago, you said that you would rather ask for Arab help before asking for American aid. Do I understand from this that the Arabs do not help you?

Answer: You are right.

Question: How? Are you not part of the Arab nation?

Answer: Aden is fighting against us, Libya is giving arms and funds to the Ethiopians, the Palestinians regard us as a separatist movement in Ethiopia and the Gulf states offer very little aid--their propaganda support is greater than their financial support. We have official offices in Egypt, Algeria, Damascus, Baghdad and Kuwait and unofficial offices in other countries like Saudi Arabia. Among all these countries we count primarily on Egypt. We count on Egypt's financial help and political and propaganda support. Although we need the help Egypt is offering through the Somali Government, we would like it to give this aid or a small part of it to us directly--a sort of political recognition of our cause by it.

Question: What exactly do you want from Egypt and the Arabs?

Answer: The Western Somalia Liberation Front is in need of everything from rifles to pills.

Question: In the casual conversation we had before this interview you said that you expect a hot winter in the Horn of Africa. On what do you base this expectation?

Answer: We are now in the dry season and our men cannot fight without water. Moreover, the Ethiopians poison the wells. The rainy season begins in April and with it begins the season of ferocious fighting. This is a traditional internal consideration. An external consideration which adds fuel to the fire of the conflict is the feeling that America and Egypt are serious in their stances to confront the Soviet influence in the Horn of Africa.

Question: Is there coordination between you and the Eritrean Liberation Front?

Answer: There is indeed coordination since any easing of pressure on any of our front means more pressure on the other fronts. An easing of pressure on Eritrea means more pressure on us and vice versa.

UGANDA

PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH DPRK DELEGATION

LD022208 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Talks between the visiting North Korean delegation and Uganda Government officials have opened in Kampala. The prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, led the Uganda delegation to the talks and the North Korean vice premier, Mr Chong Chun-ki, the Korean side.

Speaking at the opening of the talks at the International Conference Center, the prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, reaffirmed Uganda's policy of nonalignment which, he said, has helped the country to benefit from the experience and technical expertise of many countries irrespective of their ideology.

The prime minister told the Korean delegation that the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation that faces Uganda is enormous and that any assistance from any friendly country will be appreciated. He observed that Uganda and North Korea could cooperate in the field of improved social infrastructure and rehabilitation in Uganda, exchange of information between Uganda and Korea and cooperation in agricultural methods and technology.

The Ugandan side in the talks included Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Albert Picho Owiny; Minister of State for Defense Mr Peter Otai; the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr David Anyoti; the minister of rehabilitation, Mr Masete Kunia; and the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr (Mbali).

CHAD

GOUKOUNI: FRENCH THREAT JUSTIFIES LIBYAN PRESENCE

AB041138 Paris AFP in French 1101 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 4 Feb (AFP)--Chadian Leader Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), has justified the maintenance of the Libyan military contingent in Chad by the threat which, according to him, the presence of French troops on his country's border poses.

Addressing a press conference yesterday during which he severely criticized the French Government's policy toward Chad, President Goukouni Oueddei affirmed: France will do everything to suffocate Chad. It has mobilized all its forces against us. Militarily first of all, continued the GUNT president, France threatens us by the presence of its troops on our borders; this justifies the maintenance of the Libyan military contingent in Chad to safeguard its security. Politically, he added, France has a clear policy of support for Hissein Habre to the detriment of the legal government.

France has misled certain African countries concerning the proposed Libyan-Chadian merger, again affirmed Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who did not specify the African countries concerned.

President Goukouni Oueddei then accused the French Government of using the weapon of cooperation to divide the Chadians. But no Chadian will agree to go into alliance with France in order to oppress other Chadians, he affirmed. The GUNT president, who also believes that the presence of a French consulate at Moundou is aimed at dividing the Chadians, declared that he will close it if a French ambassador does not come to reside in Ndjamena.

Concerning economic matters, Mr Goukouni Oueddei was of the opinion that France did not want to help him reopen the Central Bank of Chad which, he said, is essential to the country's economy and the solution of the problem of paying the functionaries. The Chadian leader also criticized the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which he blamed for failing to perform its duty (before the fighting in Ndjamena) and for having remained idle. After the defeat of the rebellion, the OAU at France's demand began to move in order to impose its solutions, continued the GUNT president.

The Lome conference was held in the absence of the Chadian Government which has not yet defined its position concerning the deliberations of the meeting held in Lome on 14 January.

MINISTER TIES LIBYAN PRESENCE TO 'FOREIGN THREATS'

AB021011 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 2 Feb 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Feb (AFP)--Chad's foreign minister said Libyan forces would leave the country as soon as the government felt it was no longer threatened from outside. But he cautioned that the Chadian leaders could ask for more Libyan soldiers if external threats continued. The minister, Acyl Ahamet, head of one of the armed factions in Chad and considered pro-Libyan, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in a weekend interview that France and Egypt were the external forces Chad had to keep an eye on.

Mr. Acyl charged that French troops and helicopters had crossed into Chad from Central African Republic last month. He also said that both France and Egypt had supported rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre, whose soldiers were defeated by the Libyans and government coalition forces to end the Chadian civil war in December.

At the same time, however, Chad's agriculture minister, Naimbaye Lossimian, said the government of President Goukouni Oueddei would accept reconstruction assistance from anyone, and hoped to get some from France and international organizations.

Representatives of the French Government and the European Economic Community met Chadian ministers here last week for discussions on aid, and a United Nations mission is expected to arrive soon.

The foreign minister, Mr Acyl, said that when government troops took the eastern Chad city of Abeche, Mr. Habre's stronghold, they found proof of the presence of Egyptian advisers at Habre's side. Continued skirmishes in the rugged country near Abeche, along the border with Sudan, were due to the presence of isolated elements of the Habre forces, not a full-scale guerrilla campaign, Mr Acyl said. He said the Chad Government wanted to hold free elections, and, before that, to bring all the armed forces under a single commander holding state authority.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON FACTIONS, ATTITUDES

LD021451 Paris LE MATIN in French 29 Jan 81 p 8

[Herve Chablier Ndjamena dispatch: "Chad: Such a Fragile Unity"]

[Text] "No, don't talk to me about factions. They no longer exist. The division of Chadians into factions has harmed this country too much. We must now all work together. It is now time for unity not differences of opinion!" The minister paused for breath and swallowed a mouthful of Gala, the national beer, which, according to its slogan, "gives a taste of happiness." His tone was impassioned. I think that in trying to convince me he was trying to convince himself. For, in the field, the real situation belies his assertions.

In Ndjamena you sometimes find yourself thinking about Lebanon. The geographical position, the climate and the smells are not similar but here, as in Beirut, there is a profusion of armed groups, a multitude of rival factions, an absence of state and also the presence of a foreign army. The Syrians in Lebanon and the Libyans in Chad. A Chadian intellectual who, in the present uncertain political situation, prefers to remain anonymous, explained to me: "The capacity and status of a politician in our country are measured by the number of fighters following him."

Of the 11 Chadian factions who signed the Lagos agreement in August 1979 (a document instituting a government of union and calling for the departure of French troops), only 3 main factions remain: the People's Armed Forces [FAP] led by Goukouni Oueddei, the Common Action Front [FAC] whose leading figure is current Foreign Minister Acyl Ahmat and the Chadian Armed Forces [FAT] under Colonel Kamougue, National Unity Transition Government [GUNT] vice president. Each of these forces still has its own fighters grouped in different parts of the country; the FAT members being assembled in the southern part of the country from which they originally come.

Although these three factions joined forces to fight and then defeat Hissein Habre, with the Libyans' aid, the deep differences between them have not disappeared. The FAP and FAC have for several years been financed and trained by Libya. They are essentially formed of Muslims. However Goukouni Oueddei--as he has shown in the past--has at times opposed the Libyans while Acyl Ahmat seems to be Tripoli's tool. The FAT, which comprises Chadians from the south, who are Christians or Animists and strongly influenced by French colonization (it was really only exercised in this rich part of the country), have no sympathy for triumphant Islam.

"What could we do?" asked Colonel Kamougue, dressed in civilian clothes, holding a carved wooden stick without a knob. "When we were in a difficult military situation, facing Hissein Habre, we appealed to all African countries to help the GUNT, the legal government. None of them replied aside from Libya."

The agriculture minister, who belongs to the Kamougue bloc, went further: "We were perfectly aware that once the Libyans were here the question of their departure would create a serious problem but nothing would have been more disastrous than a victory by Habre." Rightly or wrongly all the Chadian politicians who did not side with Hissein Habre were convinced that, if he succeeded, the rebel interior minister would physically eliminate them. Hissein Habre has a sorry reputation as a bloodthirsty and treacherous man in Ndjamena.

When some southerners say: "We only asked the Libyans for equipment and they sent their soldiers," Goukouni's and Acyl's friends reply: "That is not true." Moreover back on 15 June 1980 a friendship and aid treaty was signed with Tripoli. The signatory on the Chadian side was Brahim Youssouf, Goukouni's main adviser.... "We are not bound by that treaty," Kamougue's supporters protest. "Brahim Youssouf was not a GUNT minister." Brahim Youssouf was killed near Abeche at the end of December in very mysterious circonstances.

There are also differences of opinion on the Libyan-Chad merger plan. Mahamat Nour, government secretary general and close adviser to Goukouni, said he thinks "a merger should be the expression of the peoples of different countries. We have not reached that stage. Far from it. We will have to wait and see." Colonel Kamougue expresses himself in more final terms: "With Libya it would not be a merger but annexation: We are a weak state which would be absorbed easily. In addition it is an unnatural and impossible union. We Chadians are African negros and the Libyans are African Arabs; not one Chadian from the north to the south could accept this merger."

There are also differences of opinion among the factions when it comes to assessing the results of the Lome conference. In the Togolese capital in mid-January the African states called for noninterference by other countries in Chadian affairs and the withdrawal of the Libyan troops. They proposed that general elections be held in April and a neutral contingent under UN and OAU auspices be sent to maintain law and order until a Chadian National Army is rebuilt. Colonel Kamougue exclaimed: "I agree with the Lome resolutions aside from the date for the elections. April is too soon. That is unrealistic." Mahamat Nour began with a preliminary statement: "We cannot be bound by the Lome conclusions. We did not take part in the conference. However I personally think that sending neutral forces would be a mistake--a step backward which would break the unitary dynamism now emerging. The Libyan forces must remain until a Chadian army takes shape and is operation."

There are many other disagreements within the GUNT. Exhausted by very violent battles--10,000 dead in 9 months--the various groups seem to want to settle these disagreements by discussion and not by using Kalashnikovs. If foreign pressure, Libyan or other, does not upset the Chadian situation further, the present respite will continue for a while, otherwise...

Those of Hissein Habre's forces who survived are regrouping on the border between Chad and the Sudan in the Maraone and Koulbous region: Will Sudan and Egypt not be tempted to strongly support them? Will Libya not use big stick methods to try to rally a hostile Chadian people to its views?

As for France, the Chadians are asking it above all not to "stir up" the African community. "France must not stir up against us the rest of French-speaking Africa, to which we wholeheartedly belong." In addition all the GUNT interlocutors I met in Ndjamena told me: "The current situation in Chad is the consequence of successive mistakes by Paris in the past 20 years. France must now actively help us rebuild the country."

CAPE VERDE

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STAND ON LIBYAN MOVES IN CHAD

AB031615 Paris AFP in French 0726 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Praia, 3 Feb (AFP)--Sources close to the government in Praia yesterday indicated that the Cape Verdian Government has never taken any official stand on Libya's activities in Chad; it will do this after the situation in Chad is clarified during the forthcoming OAU meeting.

This explanation follows statements attributed to President Aristides Pereira of the Republic of Cape Verde and published on 27 January by the Libyan news agency, JANA, which reported that Mr Pereira had affirmed that his country supported Libya's activities in Chad.

Mr Pereira only recently expressed to Niger's rural development minister and President Seyni Kountche's envoy his concern over the serious situation prevailing in the Sahel and which endangers security in the area, added the same sources in Praia.

LIBERIA

DOCK, OTHER WORKERS DISMISSED FOR STRIKE ACTIONS

AB021940 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 2 Feb 81

[Text] More than 2,000 workers at the National Ports Authority in Monrovia are to be dismissed for resorting to strike action to back their demands for a minimum salary of $200 being paid to civil servants by government. The workers, mostly unskilled and semi-skilled, include individuals who have been working with the national ports authority 15 to 20 years.

The managing director of the National Ports Authority, Mr Anthony Chea Tarpeh, told the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY at his office today that his management has decided to take the decision because of what he called the workers' failure to channel their grievances through the appropriate authority before resorting to strike and their defiance of PRC decree Number 12 which abolishes labor unrest in the country. He said the workers had also failed to yield to the advice of head of state, Master Sergeant Doe, who immediately intervened a day following the strike action and gave them an ultimatum.

When contacted, several of the striking workers said they complied with Master Sergeant Doe's order to return to work but they were not allowed to work when they reported for duty this morning. Some of them claimed that they could not report to work at the time of the head of state's pronouncement because of working shift system which allowed them a day off yesterday, while others had to report for duty at a given time.

Commenting on the workers' claims, Director Tarpeh pointed out that management could not excuse any worker from their dismissal (?sentence). All of them were actively involved in an illegal strike action on Saturday, 31 January. He disclosed that management had already embarked on recruting some new workers to replace those dismissed.

Meanwhile, hundreds of job-seekers this morning stormed the National Ports Authority to register for employment. The National Ports Authority is presently on a tight security of a joint forces of the Ports Security Unit and military personnel of the Ministry of National Defense.

More Dismissals

AB040847 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 4 Feb 81

[Text] News reports in Monrovia yesterday evening said that 27 employees of the Montserrado fishing complex have been dismissed allegedly for inciting other workers of the company to a strike. There was no further explanation.

The 27 persons dismissed at the Montserrado fishing complex brings to a total of 427 employees whose services have either been or are to be retired from the labor force of the country within 1 week. On Monday the minister of education announced the retirement of the services of 200 of its voluntary teachers. Also on Monday the National Port Authority dismissed 200 of its workers for resorting to strike action in demand for more pay.

Meanwhile PRC Speaker Brig Gen J. Nicholas Poldiear Jr has warned workers throughout the country that the PRC Decree Number 12 will be enforced against any worker engaged in illegal strikes in Liberia. A release from the capitol building issued in Monrovia yesterday quoted Speaker Poldiear as saying that if the workers claim to make legitimate demands they must first be willing to register their grievances through the proper channel established in their areas of assignment. He said government's $200 as well as $250 minimum salary scale for civil servants and military personnel respectively were implemented with the view that wage earners were already benefitting from health, transportation, insurance and other facilities.

Speaker Poldiear who was yesterday addressing employees at the Montserrado fishing complex on Bushrod Island admonished workers to reason with government because, as he put it, our enemies will only add fuel to the situation to achieve their selfish (?aims).

NIGERIA

GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE LAGOS ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION

AB301171 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 30 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Nigeria's presidential adviser on political affairs, Dr Chuba Okadigbo, has said that the recent merger proposal between Chad and Libya is inconsistent with the Lagos accord on Chad Republic. The adviser stated that being a signatory to the pact, Nigeria would make sure that the content of the accord was fully implemented. He was speaking to airport correspondents at Murtala Mohammed Airport in Lagos. Dr Okadigbo added that Nigeria and other OAU member countries which were signatories to the accord would not interfere with the elections which would usher in democratic government in Chad. He expressed Nigeria's readiness to enter into dialogue with any nation that could help in bringing peace to Chad.

UNIVERSITY IN KANO CLOSED DUE TO 'TENSION'

AB030921 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Bayero University in Kano has been closed down. The closure followed a disagreement between the counsel of the students' union and the university authorities. A statement issued by the university governing council states that the university was closed down because of the increasing of tension on the campus. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, was also closed down indefinitely 2 days ago following students' demonstrations.

RELIGIOUS PREACHING BANNED THROUGHOUT NIGER STATE

AB030852 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Religous preaching in public places has been banned throughout Niger State. An order on the ban was contained in a special gazette signed by the governor, Alhaji Anwal Ibrahim, and released last week. It warned all local governments and [word indistinct] councils not to issue licenses for any type of religious preaching until further notice. The gazette titled "The Banning of Religious Preaching in Public Places, Order, 1981, stated that the use of public address system for the purpose of religious preaching either in private or public places had also been banned. It also drew the attention of the public to sections 10 and 11 of the Islamic religious preaching (?order) of 1979 which stipulates 1 year imprisonment for contravention of the order.

WAVE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE REPORTED IN KANO

WA040121 Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 21 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] A new wave of political violence has emerged in Kano just as the dust of the religious fanaticism began to settle. In the last two weeks, the houses and offices of PRP officials loyal to Malam Aminu Kano have been attacked.

In the first incident, the Hausawa residence of Dr. M.T.A. Liman, deputy national secretary of the PRP was attacked. Two hired vans outside his house were set on fire. Dr. Liman, however, escaped unhurt.

Dr. Liman explained that the attackers wore heavy robes to disguise their features, adding, the vans set ablaze were hired by party supporters from Gongola State who were in Kano to condole Malam Aminu Kano on the Maitatsine incident.

A few days after, Alhaji M.B. Suleiman, a Kano state executive member of the PRP was a victim of similar attack during which sections of his house were destroyed. He also escaped unhurt.

In the latest incident, Alhaji Salihi Iliyasu, the deputy national president of the party was the victim. His office at Diyam Consultants was attacked in the night by thieves who succeeded in setting an airconditioner on fire before being chased away by nightguards.

It was reported that the incidents were not unconnected with the attack on the Governor Mohammed Abubakar Rimi's house in the heat of the Maitatsine clashes.

COMMISSION ON KANO DISTURBANCES BEGINS WORK

AB031845 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] The presidential commission of inquiry into the Kano religious disturbances today began receiving oral evidence. Testifying before the commission, the Kano State acting commissioner of police, Mr (Faki), said over 14 policemen were killed by the fanatics during the encounter. The commissioner, however, could not determine the number of people who died on the side of the fanatics since their colleagues would remove the bodies of any of them shot or wounded.

Mr (Faki) said among the fanatics were some ex-servicemen who instructed their colleagues of the art of warfare and how to use weapons direct seized from the police. The police commissioner also testified that among the arrested fanatics were 98 adults and 36 children. He disclosed that their nationalities were close to Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Mali, and Upper Volta, while those of Nigerian origin came from Kaduna, Kano, Borno and Bauchi states. Meanwhile, the police commissioner said that the Interpol was claiming that the leader of the fanatics, Marwa Maitatsine, came from Cameroon Republic.

PAPERS COMMENT ON DISTURBANCE BY PRP LEGISLATORS

AB301003 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jan 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Two papers, the Nigerian HERALD and the DAILY SKETCH, comment on the reported disturbances at the National Assembly on Wednesday this week. The papers recall that the trouble arose over who would represent the People's Redemption Party, PRP, on the Revenue Allocation Committee. They both described the action of the legislators as very shameful.

The HERALD, in its individual opinion, feels that the present system of government in the country does not require the use of physical power to resolve any issue, adding that anybody who is aggrieved should approach the issue constitutionally. While believing that the expelled PRP members should fight for their constitutional rights, the paper reminds them that resorting to physical confrontation will not solve the problem.

The SKETCH thinks that allowing disagreement over the ordinary matter of the representation of PRP to escalate to such proportions requiring police action does no credit to the maturity and competence of the honorable lawmakers. Nevertheless, the paper remarks that since disagreements are bound to arise from time to time in a democracy like Nigeria, the legislators must learn to resolve their differences amicably.

UPPER VOLTA

ZERBO INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

AB040828 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Summary] The head of state, Col Saye Zerbo, has granted an interview to some reporters of CARREFOUR AFRICAIN. "He was questioned about the maintenance of the curfew 2 months after the 21 November military takeover. Asked whether this means that the military committee is not yet in full control of the situation, Col Saye Zerbo replied: Not at all! We are maintaining it mainly because of security reasons; we want to ensure the security of the citizens against robbery and banditry." There is no clan within the army which is opposed to our action. "All the officers and soldiers support our action; therefore there is no question of the existence of a group which could stage a countercoup, he explained."

Questioned about the fraudulous introduction of arms into the country, the head of state said this began sometime between 1978 and 1980. Concerning the fate of the authorities of the former regime who are now under detention, he said it will depend on the charges that may be brought against them by the commission of inquiry. "They will answer these charges in accordance with the existing laws in all fairness and without any passion, he added."

"What will be the future of the people of Upper Volta? The head of state also discussed this problem during his discussions with CARREFOUR AFRICAIN. He said: The future will be very difficult. We must restore the public finances. This will not be easy because we inherited a most difficult financial situation. We must reduce public expenditure through a drastic reduction of the living standard of the state." At the same time, we must increase our revenues by making the income tax and customs revenues collecting services more operational, the head of state added.

Asked whether the citizens will be asked to make special sacrifices, Col Saye Zerbo said special sacrifices are not envisaged at the moment.

COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR STRICT OBSERVANCE OF CURFEW

AB041056 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Communique of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress]

[Text] All people in the towns and rural areas of Upper Volta are reminded that the curfew hours imposed in order to safeguard public order and tranquility must be strictly observed. Anyone who violates the curfew regulations will suffer the following penalties:

1. As far as first offenders are concerned, their identity will be verified after which they will be detained until the curfew is over. They will also be fined 2,000 francs.

2. The identity of recidivists will be verified after which they will be detained for 48 hours. They will also pay a fine of 4,000 francs.

The competent services of the national gendarmerie and police are responsible for the detention and fining of offenders and receipts will be issued for the fines paid. Signed: Col Saye Zerbo.

ANGOLA

MPLA-LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE TEXT

LD031238 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0530 GMT 3 Feb 81 EA

["Text" of communique issued in Luanda on 2 February by the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party--read by announcer]

[Text] The seventh ordinary meeting of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party was held from 29 January to 2 February 1981 under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party.

The Central Committee subjected to detailed analysis national development projects and the state general budget for the 1981 economic year. It also studied in detail the government proposals for their implementation and decided that these proposals be studied and analyzed by the time the People's Assembly convenes for its next plenary session.

The Central Committee analyzed in detail the draft regulations which will govern the functions of the People's Assembly. These were approved after some amendments had been made.

The Central Committee analyzed the work done to prepare for the holding of the extraordinary congress, the congress itself and what it had achieved.

The Central Committee lauded the results obtained in the implementation of the party guidelines. It expressed satisfaction at the standard of mass political awareness. It acclaimed the achievements attained in the implementation of the guidelines laid down by the late Comrade Dr President Antonio Agostinho Neto, who imbued the party leadership with the worker-peasant spirit.

Having analyzed the process of the restructuring of the party's central apparatus, the Central Committee adopted the following resolutions:

Paragraph A: That the members of the Central Committee Secretariat work exclusively for the party.

Paragraph B: That 15 Departments should be set up to be run by 9 secretaries to be appointed as follows:

A secretary for the Departments of Organization and of Support for Mass and Social Organizations.

A secretary for the Departments of Political and Ideological Education; Information and Propaganda; and Education, Culture and Sports.

A secretary for the Department of the Social, Political and Economic Sectors.

A secretary for the Departments of the State Bodies and the Judicial Bodies.

A secretary for the Departments of the Agricultural and Industrial Sector and the Power and Communications Sector.

A secretary for the Foreign Department.

A secretary for the Department of Administration and Finance.

A secretary for the Department of Party Political Work within the Defense and Security Bodies, including war veterans.

A secretary for the Cadre Department.

Paragraph C: That one member of the Central Committee should work with the Central Control Commission on a full-time basis.

Paragraph D: That having analyzed the functions of the Political Bureau, the Secretariat and the government organs during 1980, as well as past performance and progress, the Central Committee came to the conclusion that it was imperative to improve supervision of the work of the personnel of these supreme party and state organs.

Following the exercise restructuring the Secretariat, the Central Committee appointed a commission to draw up regulations to govern the Central Committee.

The Central Committee has set up the following departments:

Department of Organization
Department of Support for Mass and Social Organizations
Department of Political and Ideological Education
Department of Information and Propaganda
Department of Education, Culture and Sports
Department of Social Affairs
Department of Agriculture and Industry
Department of Power and Communications
Department of Political and Social affairs [as heard]
Department of State Bodies
Department of Judicial Bodies
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of Party Political Work within the Defense and Security Bodies and War Veterans Cadre Department
Department of Administration and Finance

[issued] Luanda, 2 February 1981, the control and discipline year;

[signed] the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party

LESOTHO

JONATHAN MESSAGE CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK

LD031432 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Feb 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister of Lesotho, Dr Jonathan, has condemned last week's raid on bases of the African National Congress [ANC] in Mozambique by South African forces. Our correspondent in Maseru reports that Dr Jonathan sent the message to President Machel of Mozambique today in which he denounced what he called a barbarous act. He said the raid had been intended to intimidate African countries against giving sanctuary to people forced to flee South Africa by the injustices of apartheid. After the raid the South African military authorities said it had yielded clear proof that acts of terrorism against South Africa were being masterminded from ANC bases in Mozambique.

MADAGASCAR

GOVERNMENT IMPOSES CURFEW AFTER STUDENT PROTESTS

AB031945 Paris AFP in French 1822 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] Antananarivo, 3 Feb (AFP)--The Malagasy Government has imposed a curfew on Antananarivo from 1930 to 0500 local time, following violent demonstrations, it was announced on Tuesday night by Radio Madagascar.

This decision was made after severe clashes between students and security forces took place today, Tuesday, in the Malagasy capital. These demonstrations, according to a communique from the prime minister, Col Desire Pakotoarijaona, left one dead and two seriously wounded on the side of the security forces.

On their part, the demonstrators disclosed that a female student was killed and 16 other demonstrators were wounded. Hospitals in the capital have confirmed that many wounded people were admitted, without being able to give precise figures as of Tuesday night.

The prime minister's communique specifies that the demonstration is the work of enemies of Malagasy's socialist revolution and that the soldiers, keepers of public order, had to defend themselves in the face of these provocations. The communique warns the people to be on their guard, for arms have been stolen by the demonstrators from the soldiers.

Late in the afternoon, some clashes were still reported in certain parts of the capital and two military vehicles had burned down on Independence Avenue where the clashes had began early in the morning.

The aim of the demonstrators made up of high school and university students on strike, was apparently to hold a massive rally at the 13 May 1972 Square and Independence Avenue. In fact, it was at this same place, in front of the burned ruins of the former (?mayor's office) that the May 1972 disturbances, which culminated in the fall of President Tsiranana and during which about 40 people died took place.

The demonstrators were neither carrying placards nor slogans, but simply singing the Malagasy national anthemn.

SOUTH AFRICA

LEADERS TO HOLD TALKS WITH SOUTH-WEST AFRICANS

LD040850 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 3 Feb 81 CA

[Text] The administrator general, Mr Hough, and the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Mudge, are among the South-West African leaders who are to hold talks in Cape Town later this week with the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha. A spokesman for the office of the administrator general has confirmed in Windhoek that the talks will be held on Thursday and Friday. The talks are expected to concern the road ahead in view of the outcome of the Geneva conference. Meanwhile, the Namibia Christian Democratic Party has announced that it will not attend the talks.

VILJOEN ADDRESSES PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL SESSION

LD031200 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 81

[Text] The establishment of the President's Council heralds the start of one of the most important constitutional phases in South African history. This has been said by the state president, Mr Marais Viljoen, when he opened the council's first session in Cape Town this morning. He said the council would have to perform the crucial task of advising the government on ways and means of satisfying the legitimate aspiractions and expectations of the different population groups to participate effectively in decision making processes affecting their interests. To this end the President's Council would have to negotiate in a spirit of mutual trust. President Viljoen said the degree of cooperation, the ability to accept all population groups as equals and to generate goodwill could make a major contribution towards a peaceful and a better future for all in South Africa. He said one of the council's main functions would be to formulate recommendations for a new constitutional dispensation for Asians, coloreds and whites. President Viljoen said an important object was that a new dispensation would ensure self-determination for the population groups concerned as well as their joint responsibility in decision making within a stable, effective and orderly society in South Africa.